

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Tagami et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,402,171). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 12 is directed to an electronic camera comprising *inter alia* an image discrimination circuit configured to judge whether the image data represents a panoramic image or not based on an aspect ratio of the image data selected from the recording medium. When the selected image data is judged as representing a panoramic image by the image discrimination circuit, a display-mode setting circuit sets a panoramic display-mode, and scrolls and displays on a display panel the selected panoramic image by controlling the display circuit in accordance with an operation of a frame-advance button.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Tagami et al. that an aspect ratio of image data is used to determine whether the image data represents a panoramic image. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion of display mode setting circuit means responsive to the display discrimination means for setting a panoramic display mode displaying on a display panel the selected panoramic image by controlling the display circuit in accordance with an operation of a frame-advance button based upon the determination made by the discrimination means. Instead, in Tagami, the panorama mode is determined by an operator operating a playback button 52 and a direction button 53 (see col. 25, lines 17-22).

In connection with the rejection the Examiner recites column 27, lines 8-13 that states:

“At the time of reading data from the memory card the reproducing section of the electronic camera reads image control data from the memory card which indicates whether the image data is an ordinary image or a panorama image.”

The Examiner’s attention however is directed to the sentences which precede the cited sentence which appear at column 27, lines 3-8:

“Fig. 61 shows an image with a mark put in a panorama reproduction image to distinguish the reproduced image picked up in normal imaging mode from 5 the reproduced image picked up in panorama mode. “P” at the upper right of the reproduced image represents a panorama image.”

Thus, the determination of whether the image is an ordinary image or a panorama image is determined by whether there is a mark indicating whether or not the image is an ordinary image or a panorama image and not on determination of the aspect ratio.

Indeed, the Examiner specifically recognized the deficiency of Tagami in this regard by stated in the previous Office Action on page 3, “Tagami et al. does not specifically disclose that utilizing an aspect ratio of an image data to indicate whether the image data is an ordinary image or a panorama image.”

The Examiner on page 5 of the Office Action correctly states that pixels used for panorama image have different aspect ratio than pixels used for an ordinary image. This, however has no bearing on whether detection of the aspect ratio is used to determine whether a normal image or panoramic image is to be displayed. It is eminently clear that in Tagami a mark – not – is used to determine whether one should display a panoramic view or an ordinary image view.

In this connection the Examiner’s attention is directed to column 27, lines 22-28 which states:

“The panorama mark or direction mark may be generated from a mark generator 81 constituted of a digital circuit and may be mixed with the image by a digital mixer 82 as shown in Fig. 64, or may be generated from a mark generator 83 constituted of an

analog circuit and may be mixed with the image by an analog mixer 84 as shown in Fig. 65."

Thus it is clear that the display means is responsive to the mark generator 81 (Fig. 64) or mark generator 83 (Fig. 65) and not to a determinant of aspect ratio.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Tagami et al., does not teach or suggest an electronic camera comprising inter alia an image discrimination circuit configured to judge whether the image data represents a panoramic image or not, based on an aspect ratio of the image data selected from the recording medium. Nor do they teach or suggest that when the selected image data is judged as representing a panoramic image by the image discrimination circuit, a display-mode setting circuit sets a panoramic display-mode, and scrolls and displays on a display panel the selected panoramic image by controlling the display circuit in accordance with an operation of a frame-advance button.

Further, Tagami et al. is directed to an electronic camera which although it is capable of shooting an object in a panoramic mode and reproducing a panoramic image, is not provided with an LCD panel which displays a reproduced image. The LCD panel of Tagami et al. only indicates letters or signs. In column 27, lines 34 to 45, Tagami et al. explains that when a panorama mode is selected as the shooting mode, the mark "P" is displayed on the LCD panel. Fig. 67 shows the mark "P" is displayed on the finder image display. The LCD panel of Tagami et al. does not indicate the reproduced image, but merely indicates that the panorama mode is chosen when shooting an object.

In the electronic camera of Tagami et al, a TV monitor (54) is required for viewing the reproduced image. The image reproduced by the electronic camera is output as a video signal. Unless the signal is output to a TV monitor, viewing the image is impossible. Figs. 61, 62 and 63 show the image displayed in the TV monitor.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is clearly patentable over the Tagami et al.

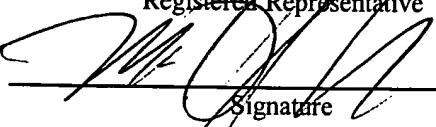
Claim 13 is dependent from claim 12 and is therefore patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in claim 13 with the features set forth in claim 12.

Claim 14, like claim 12, is directed to an electronic camera comprising inter alia an image discrimination circuit configured to judge whether the image data represents a panoramic image or not, based on an aspect ratio of the image data selected from the recording medium, wherein when the selected image data is judged as representing a panoramic image by the image discrimination circuit, a display-mode setting circuit sets a panoramic display-mode. Accordingly, claim 14 is patentable over the references for the same reasons as claim 12.

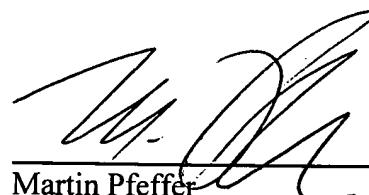
In addition, claim 14 claims that the display-mode setting circuit divides the selected panoramic image into a plurality of areas, and displays step by step on the display panel the divided panoramic image by controlling the display circuit, in accordance with an operation of a frame-advance button. None of the references disclose this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is patentable over the references for this reason as well.

Claim 15 is dependent from claim 14 and is therefore patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features with the features set forth in claim 14 set forth in Claim 15.

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Respectfully submitted,



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